

Recommended Reading



# European Historical Fiction

## ***Star of the Sea***

**by Joseph O'Connor**

An American journalist gives his complex account of passengers—thief, prostitute, and others—onboard an 1847 ship bound for New York from Ireland. Praised for its historical research and detail. (Fic OCO)

## ***The Other Boleyn Girl***

**by Philippa Gregory**

The story of Anne Boleyn's sister Mary, who was the first Boleyn girl to have an affair with King Henry VIII. (Fic GRE)

## ***Mary Queen of Scotland and the Isles***

**by Margaret George**

Shipped out for marriage at age seven, Mary was Queen of France, then of Scotland—not to mention the cousin to England's Queen Elizabeth. Mary is lively, intelligent, charming—and has terrible judgment. Praised for its “painstaking research.” (Fic GEO)

## ***Ironfire: a Novel of the Knights of Malta and the Last Battle of the Crusades***

**by David Ball**

Nicolo Borg is swiped up by Barbary pirates in 1565 and embarks on an extraordinary journey through the Muslim World. (Fic BAL)

## ***China Court: the Hours of a Country House***

**by Rumer Godden**

The story of the Quin family and their old home in Cornwall, England.

## ***People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks**

A rare book expert discovers a number of tiny artifacts hidden within the binding of a fifteenth-century Hebrew manuscript and begins to unravel the mysteries behind its past. (FIC Bro)

## ***Murphy's Law* by Rhys Bowen**

A good sense of place and period sets the stage for this 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish heroine. The series starts with Molly accidentally killing an unwanted pursuer, and fleeing her village to escape. First in the Molly Murphy Mystery series. (Fic BOW)

## ***Foucault's Pendulum* by Umberto Eco**

Three editors enjoy some scheming about European history—until people start to mysteriously disappear. (Fic ECO)

## ***Zorro: a Novel* by Isabel Allende**

Diego de la Vega, born in 1795, is recruited into a secret society and becomes the noble alter ego Zorro. (Fic ALL)

## ***Outlander* by Donna Gabaldon**

Historical fiction meets fantasy: Claire Randall touches a boulder that sends her back in time to Old Scotland—where she keeps another husband in another century. First in a series. (Fic GAB)

*And, for some more fun summer reading:*

## ***Horatio Hornblower Series* by C.S. Forester**

## ***Master and Commander (Captain Jack Aubrey series)* by Patrick O'Brian**

Summer Reading @ Burnham Library  
898 Main Street, Colchester